

Reading Grade 3

Just think how hard life would be if a person could not read! Street signs, maps, warning labels, food packages, newspapers, emails, notes and letters, magazines, and books would all be impossible to understand. That's why it is so important to become a good reader. How do you do that? You become a good reader by practicing the reading skills you are learning in school, by reading often, and by thinking and talking about what you have read. If you think you are not a good reader yet, don't be discouraged! Keep working at it. Reading is a skill you will use all of your life. It opens the door to a world of new and exciting ideas. It helps us to learn. But most of all, reading is fun!

About the Test

On AIMS DPA, you will be given several passages to read, both fiction and nonfiction. You may also be given informational text to read – for example, labels or pages from manuals. The questions will assess your ability to understand, interpret, and analyze what you have read. There are approximately 84 multiple-choice reading items. Thirty-nine items are AIMS questions, 15 items are *TerraNova* and AIMS DPA questions, and 30 items represent ten *TerraNova* Reading questions and 20 *TerraNova* language arts questions. The test should be completed in approximately 1-2 hours. One sample passage is provided in this guide followed by a set of questions. Reading this passage and answering the questions may help you prepare for the test. An answer key for the reading questions is included in this guide.

Hints for Taking AIMS DPA Reading

- You will be asked to read different types of fiction and nonfiction, so adjust your reading to your purpose. Read each passage and the accompanying questions carefully.
- Think about each question before you respond.
- In the multiple-choice questions, choose the **best** response to the question.
- Manage your time so that you won't feel rushed answering questions that require more thought. **This is not a timed test**, but you do want to use your time well.
- Be sure to answer all items. Do not leave any blanks.

The Monarch Butterfly Tree

Grandma Mac is in the garden, swinging a big net.

“What are you doing?” I call.

“The Monarchs are here, Bobby,” Grandma says, as she points to a tree covered with butterflies. “The butterflies are resting,” Grandma says. “They have a long trip ahead.”

I stare at the tree. Grandma gives me a little push. “Get a bit closer.”

As quiet as a bunny, I tiptoe over rows of dirt. Soon I see splashes of black and orange. Our visitors take turns stretching their legs which are as thin as threads.

Grandma Mac slips her arm around my shoulder. “Monarchs migrate like birds. They come down from Canada to find more comfortable weather.”

“Where are they going?” I ask Grandma.

“South into Mexico. By the time they reach the mountains, they will have traveled two or three thousand miles. We live along their path.”

Just then, one of the butterflies lands on a sunflower.

Grandma Mac catches the butterfly with two fingers. “Gotcha!”

Grandma shows me the butterfly, and I count three sections on its black body. The Monarch’s antennae twitch as Grandma shows me two black spots on its hind wings.

“Boys have spots there. Girls don’t.”

She reaches into her pocket and takes out a sheet of tiny stickers. With my help, she peels off a sticker. Then, she tags the butterfly’s wing with the sticker. She holds it there for a few seconds.

Grandma lets the Monarch fly back to the butterfly tree. She searches in her apron pockets, takes out a pencil, and writes on her notepad. When she finishes, she shows me what she wrote. “This is his tag number, and these are my notes.”

I run my fingers down the rows of numbers. “Why are you putting stickers on butterflies?”

Grandma Mac smiles and says, “We need to learn about Monarch migrations. Many of their homes have been destroyed. Scientists are trying to save them, and they need our help.”

I ask her, “What can we do?”

Grandma says, “Our job is to tag butterflies so that scientists can study how they live and travel.”

Grandma catches more butterflies. One at a time, she turns them over, looking for spots.

I show her it’s a boy and hand her a sticker. Grandma tells me I’m right, and together we write numbers on her notepad until the sun fades. I look forward to their next visit to the butterfly tree.

1 Based on the story, what will **most** likely happen when the butterflies come next year?

- A Grandma will move to Canada.
- B Grandma will tag more butterflies.
- C Grandma will follow the butterflies to Mexico.
- D Grandma will plant sunflowers in her garden.

2 Which is the correct way to divide comfortable into syllables?

- A com • fort • a • ble
- B com • for • ta • ble
- C com • fort • ab • le
- D co • m • fort • able

Read this sentence from “The Monarch Butterfly Tree.”

I show her it’s a boy and hand her a sticker.

3 In which sentence does show mean the same thing?

- A She ran the whole show.
- B The puppet show was very good.
- C My mom will show me how to make a cake.
- D We had a party, but our friends didn’t show.

4 Which of these words means the same as the word visitors?

- A guests
- B exercises
- C colors
- D rabbits

5 Who is telling the story, “The Monarch Butterfly Tree”?

- A the Monarchs
- B Grandma
- C the scientists
- D Bobby

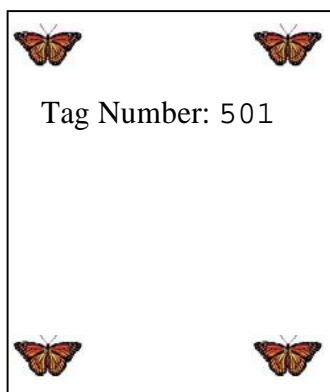
Read this list of words from “The Monarch Butterfly Tree.”

sticker stretching splashes spots

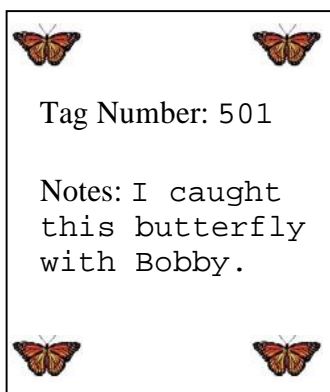
6 If these words were in ABC order, which word would be **first**?

- A spots
- B sticker
- C splashes
- D stretching

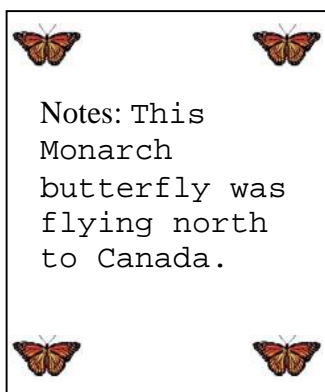
7 Based on the story, which of these is **most** like a page of Grandma’s notepad?



A



B



C



D

8 At the end of the story, how was Bobby able to tell that the butterfly was a boy?

- A** There were stripes on the hind wings.
- B** There were no spots on the hind wings.
- C** There were spots on the hind wings.
- D** There were spots on the front wings.

9 Based on the story, how are Grandma and Bobby alike?

- A** They both like butterflies.
- B** They both live in Canada.
- C** They both eat sunflower seeds.
- D** They both want to visit Mexico.

10 Based on the story, where does Grandma live?

- A** in Canada
- B** in Mexico
- C** north of Canada
- D** north of Mexico

Read this sentence from “The Monarch Butterfly Tree.”

“The Monarchs are here, Bobby,” Grandma says as she points to a tree covered with butterflies.

11 Who is speaking?

- A** Bobby
- B** Grandma
- C** the scientists
- D** the Monarchs

12 Why does Grandma tag the Monarch butterflies?

- A** She wants to keep Monarch butterflies as pets.
- B** She wants to sell Monarch butterflies to the zoo.
- C** She wants to teach Bobby about Monarch butterflies.
- D** She wants to help scientists learn about Monarch butterflies.

13 In the story, which butterfly does Grandma tag first?

- A** the one with spots on the hind wings
- B** the one with spots on the front wings
- C** the one with no spots on the front wings
- D** the one with no spots on the hind wings

14 “The Monarch Butterfly Tree” is an example of —

- A** a play
- B** fiction
- C** poetry
- D** nonfiction

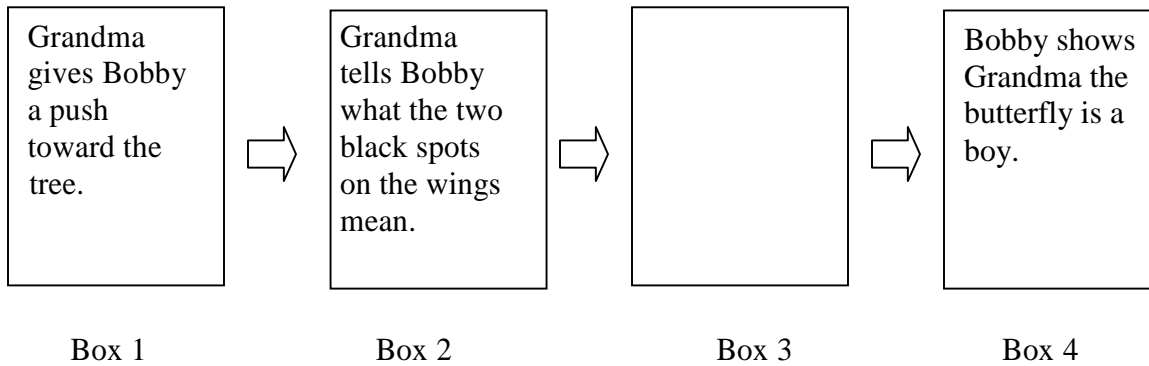
15 In “The Monarch Butterfly Tree,” which of these does Grandma do **before** she tags the first butterfly?

- A** She lets the butterfly go.
- B** She writes on her notepad.
- C** She takes out tiny stickers.
- D** She puts the butterfly in the tree.

16 In “The Monarch Butterfly Tree” what does the word migrate mean?

- A** build nests in trees
- B** eat sunflower seeds
- C** lay eggs in their nests
- D** travel from place to place

Look at the some of the events from “The Monarch Butterfly Tree.”



17 Which sentence belongs in box 3?

- A** Grandma tags the butterfly.
- B** Grandma keeps the butterfly.
- C** Grandma gardens with Bobby.
- D** Grandma plays with the butterfly.

Read this sentence from “The Monarch Butterfly Tree.”

As quiet as a bunny, I tiptoe over rows of dirt.

18 Which is the correct spelling of the word that means more than one bunny?

- A** bunnys
- B** bunnyes
- C** bunnies
- D** bunny’s

Scoring Key

Reading Key

Question #1: B
Question #2: A
Question #3: C
Question #4: A
Question #5: D
Question #6: C
Question #7: B
Question #8: C
Question #9: A
Question #10: D
Question #11: B
Question #12: D
Question #13: A
Question #14: B
Question #15: C
Question #16: D
Question #17: A
Question #18: C